

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Contact: Karen Feldheim
(916) 324-1606

Scoping Meetings February 23, 2005

Public Comments Sought Related To Proposed Habitat Conservation Plan

California State Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are gathering information necessary to prepare a joint Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) on the proposed San Luis Obispo Coast District (SLO Coast) and Oceano Dunes State Vehicular Recreation Area (ODSVRA) Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP).

The information is required under the National Environmental Policy Act and the California Environmental Quality Act.

The public is invited to attend meetings that will be held regarding the scope of the EIS/EIR, including a range of alternatives to be addressed by the EIS/EIR and potential impacts of the HCP. The HCP also addresses eight federally-listed, and two state-listed plant species.

The meetings will be held Wednesday, February 23rd from 1 p.m. until 3 p.m., and from 6 p.m. until 8 p.m. Both sessions will be held at the Morro Bay Natural History Museum, 20 State Park Rd. in Morro Bay.

Further information will be available at the meetings, including a more in depth project description, and information on where the public may file written comments.

The SLO Coast Park units include: Estero Bluffs, Morro Strand State Beach, Morro Bay State Park, Montana de Oro State Park, and Pismo Dunes Natural Preserve.

California State Parks intends to request a permit for incidental take of the western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), California least tern (*Sterna antillarum browni*), California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*), and Morro shoulderband snail (*Helminthoglypta walkeriana*).

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